

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	William H. Brown	-Chair
	Mary W. Biggs	-Vice Chair
	Gary D. Creed	-Supervisors
	Matthew R. Gabriele	
	M. Todd King	
	Christopher A. Tuck	
	F. Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	L. Carol Edmonds	-Deputy County Administrator
	Martin M. McMahon	-County Attorney
	Angie Hill	-Director of Financial and Management Services
	Marc Magruder	-Budget Manager
	Ruth Richey	-Public Information Officer
	Judy W. Kiser	-Assistant to the County Administrator
ABSENT:	Annette S. Perkins	-Supervisor

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Advertised Real Estate Tax Rate - 89¢ per \$100 of Assessed Value**

The Chair called the public hearing to order for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the County's advertised real estate tax rate of 89¢ per \$100 of assessed value. He explained that he would call the names of those who had signed up to speak. Each speaker was asked to state their name and address. The Chair asked that all comments be directed to the Chair and members of the Board and not to the audience or to staff. He further explained that since the purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizens' comments, the Board would not be answering questions. The audience was asked to refrain from applauding or commenting between speakers, and that any written statements could be left with the clerk. There will be a second public hearing on the advertised FY 2015-2016 budget at 6:45 p.m., or at the close of the first public hearing.

Richard Workman – 212 Pine Drive, Blacksburg Mr. Workman thanked the Board for adopting a budget last year without a rate increase, and does not believe any county services were negatively affected. He sees the budgets are becoming so large, particularly the school budget, is growing so much each year that it would be a good idea to bring in a consultant to look at it. A budget this large should be a line item review and not just 5 categories. He reminded the Board

that Blacksburg and Christiansburg residents are also facing a proposed 3¢ increase in their taxes. Mr. Workman sees our taxes approaching some of the rates in northern Virginia.

The County Administrator said he would like to clarify that, with the reassessment, the revenue neutral rate would be 88¢, so advertising 89¢ does represent a 1¢ tax increase.

There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

The Chair declared a 9-minute recess in order to comply with the 6:45 p.m. announced start time for the second public hearing.

### **Advertised 2015-2016 Budget - \$175,976,069**

The Chair called the public hearing to order for the purpose of receiving citizens' comments with regard to the advertised FY 2015-2016 Budget in the amount of \$175,976,069.

Connie Froggatt – 1751 Brush Mountain Creek Road, Blacksburg Ms. Froggatt spoke about the Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) budget. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the schools and thanked the County Administrator for recommending an additional 1.9% for the school budget. She agrees the state is responsible for the major budget cuts, and as a direct result of those cuts last year MCPS lost 11 positions, with 4.5 of those positions absorbed by Blacksburg High School. Ms. Froggatt then referenced the handout she had provided which was taken from a presentation that was made at a recent Board meeting by Fieldstone Development about a proposed affordable housing project in the Town of Blacksburg. The handout listed the types of jobs that would qualify for subsidized housing, assuming a family of four. A sample of local employees who would qualify for the affordable workforce housing were all public service jobs such as police, teachers, and custodians. These are the people who are molding our future, putting a lot of faith and responsibility on them and we expect them to live in subsidized housing.

Marti Graham – 4535 Long Shop Road, Blacksburg thanked the Board for their ongoing support for MCPS and thanked the County Administrator for recommending an additional 1.9% for the school budget. The MCPS budget for 2015 is the same as the 2008 budget, and everyone knows the same amount of money will not purchase the same services and products in 2015. In the past four years the Board of Supervisors has helped by filling the void of the schools' loss of state funds. Some of the void has also been filled by the School Board by reducing school supply budgets, decreasing the number of field trips, etc. MCPS has lost a lot of staff including support staff, teachers, and administrators. Loss of teachers affects the class sizes and the ability of teachers to provide one-on-one instructions and detect any individual problems such as learning disabilities, not understanding material, and the overall quality of education the teachers are able to provide to the students. She urged the Board to expedite the sale of surplus school property. This would make a small dent in moving forward with handling the overdue needs in the Christiansburg school strand. She also asked that the Board consider the \$775,000 request from the School Board for capital expenditures.

The County Administrator announced that a budget work session would be included on the agenda for the Board's April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. A special meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> for the Board to consider adoption of the FY 2015-2016 budget and approval of the advertised real estate tax rate of 89¢. Both meetings will begin at 7:15 p.m.

There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Supervisor Biggs and seconded by Supervisor King, the Chair declared the Board adjourned to Monday, April 13, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED: _____	ATTEST: _____
William H. Brown	F. Craig Meadows
Chair	County Administrator